

ELIZABETHAN BOOKCASE OR WARDROBE.

We have great pleasure in submitting this beautiful specimen of our young friend's ability, and have no doubt it will be equally agreeable to our readers, and may be turned to much account. It will admit of dissection and application in various ways—the panels are suited to many objects by enlargement or contraction, and the lower part as a chest, side-piers, &c.



INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.

APRIL 11.

The meeting was commenced by reading an appendix to Mr. Mackin's accounts of the Glasgow Water Works, which was read at the last meeting. It described the construction of a reservoir for supplying the new portion of the city, situated nearly four miles from the works, at a height of nearly 106 feet from the Clyde. In order to take the utmost advantage of a limited space, the sides of the reservoir were made of cast iron plates, connected with a floor composed of Ayrbroath pavement, fastened together with iron cramps, and the joints pointed with cement. It is supported on consecutive layers of sand, clay, and rubble. The interior dimensions are 123 feet long, 85 feet 6 inches wide, and 11 feet deep, and the whole is covered by three wrought iron roofs, each of 28 feet 6 inches span. A drawing was exhibited of the

great Coradino Tank, erected in the island of Malta in the years 1841 and 1842, by Mr. W. L. Arrow-smith, A. T. C. E., superintendent of Government Works. It is the largest modern covered tank in Europe, and it will contain 15,000 tons of water. It is destined to form part of the projected water works for supplying Malta with good water, a description of which was promised. A letter was read from the late Sir J. Robinson, giving a short account of the Artesian Well at Paris. After detailing the various disasters attendant upon the work, before the water was reached, at a depth of 1,794 feet English, and at a cost of upwards of 12,000*l.* sterling, the letter proceeded to give Sir John's objections to the idea of the contortions suffered by the copper tube being due to the hydrostatic pressure. He attributed it to the violent manner in which it had been forced down the bored hole, and even more so in withdrawing it.

ARCHITECTURAL LIBRARIES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BUILDER.

SIR,—Having been a reader of your useful journal, and considering the following question not inappropriate in the columns of your magazine, I forward it to you, in the hope that you or some of your numerous readers will favour me with an early answer: it is—Are there any architectural subscription libraries in London, or in the country? if so, what are their general rules and regulations? In Sheffield there is nothing of the kind, but I believe that, were such formed on a proper basis, they would be of great service to the profession, especially to the junior branches of it.

The supply of knowledge in this our day is more plentiful than it was in former years, therefore I have often wondered that gentlemen have not oftener associated together for the establishment of such societies as I have above alluded to.

I am, Sir, with ardent wishes for your success,
Sheffield, April 19, 1843. W.

The evil which the writer of the foregoing letter complains of is one that so forcibly pressed itself upon our attention many years ago while residing in the country, that we applied to Mr. Weale to know whether some arrangement could not be come to to supply to us a remedy for the disadvantage of not being able to have access to a suitable collection. The provincial architect is placed at wonderful odds below his metropolitan brother professor in this respect. Here, in London, is the British Museum, and many facilities of reference to those expensive works, that by reason of their expense are shut out from the reach of most private book collectors. Since receiving our correspondent's letter, we have made further inquiries, with a view to ascertain whether there was a disposition on the part of some of the large circulating librarians to add a fair collection of architectural works to their stock, and to forward them in parcels as is now done by their other books to country subscribers on payment of the usual subscription of so many guineas per annum. We have applied to Mr. Bull and Mr. Churton, both owners of country circulating libraries, but have not obtained much encouragement, and we are disposed to fall back upon and recommend a plan upon which we were about to act, at the time above referred to, which is, that a number of architects in the country should subscribe, say their five or ten guineas each, and with the fund purchase a well-selected class of books, which the expenditure of a round sum would enable them to get at an advantage; that then, by a sort of ballot, these books should be distributed amongst them to circulate from hand to hand until they had made the round of the subscribers, and that at the end of the circulation a distribution should be made in equal shares as to value, either by agreement among themselves as to the books they would have, or by ballot. To prevent the laying in of books already possessed by some of the parties, those books might form part of the circulation; and thus, with one or two hundred pounds in cash, and probably as much in books in hand, a library might be formed, of which all the subscribers would have the reading, and at the end of the term the full value of their subscription, and, as we have shewn, probably a larger value than their own disbursement of their subscription would have procured. There will require the working out of a few details to complete such a plan, but we shall be very happy to be instrumental in it in any way. A large town like Sheffield might have a dozen books at once. These might pass on to Leeds, and so on through a prescribed route. If any gentlemen like to send us their names, we will do our best in completing the subscription list.

MR. CUMMINS' WORKMEN.

We have to correct a mistake in No. 10. In the postscript of the letter from a Young Joiner, wherein we are made to put to his credit six shillings instead of sixpence. We have today another letter from Acanthus, with the spirit of which we are particularly well pleased, as he encloses sixpence as his contribution, which we consider a generous concession to a principle that we had to advocate in opposition to some of his prejudices. His example is a good one, and we hope will have its weight with those who calumniate the societies of which he is a member.